

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 WELLIN 02140 100015Z

70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 DRC-01 /068 W

----- 061543

R 092233Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8335

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 2140

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, NZ

SUBJECT: LABOUR AND NATIONAL SHARE EQUAL BILLING IN PUBLIC
OPINION POLL

1. NATIONAL OPINION POLL, PUBLISHED JULY 6. SHOWS LABOUR
AND NATIONAL PARTIES NECK AND NECK WITH EACH OBTAINING
44 PERCENT OF VOTER SUPPORT. SOCIAL CREDIT AND VALUES
PARTIES RECEIVED SUPPORT OF SIX AND FIVE PERCENT OF
VOTERS RESPECTIVELY. SUPPORT DETERMINED AS RESPONSE TO
QUESTION "IF ELECTION HAD BEEN HELD YESTERDAY WHICH
PARTY WOULD YOU HAVE VOTED FOR?". POLL WAS TAKEN IN MID-
MAY PRIOR TO BACKGROUND OF INDUSTRIAL DIFFICULTIES.

2. QUERIED CONCERNING MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM FACING
COUNTRY 49 PERCENT LISTED INFLATION. SECOND PLACE ON
PROBLEM FRONT WENT TO INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WHICH WAS
LISTED FIRST BY ONLY SEVEN PERCENT.

3. WHILE NZ OPINION POLLS ARE RATHER UNSOPHISTICATED
SEVERAL POINTS STAND OUT IN COMPARING MOST RECENT
POLL WITH THOSE TAKEN SIX AND TWELVE MONTHS AGO. IN MAY
1973 MARGIN IN FAVOR OF LABOUR WAS 51 PERCENT TO 39 PERCENT.

BY NOVEMBER MARGIN HAD BEEN CUT TO 47-44. EFFECTIVELY,
NATIONAL HAS HELD ITS OWN DURING LAST SIX MONTHS WHILE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 WELLIN 02140 100015Z

LABOUR HAS DROPPED THREE PERCENT. STRIKES AND LABOR

UNREST OF PAST WEEK WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN LABOUR
PARTY'S LOSING SEVERAL MORE PERCENTAGE POINTS WHEN NEXT
POLL TAKEN IN NOVEMBER.

4. COMMENT- PERHAPS GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE OF POLL IS
INDICATION THAT NEARLY HALF OF THOSE INTERVIEWED BELIEVE
INFLATION IS SINGLE GREATEST PROBLEM HERE. IN A COUNTRY
USED TO A MANAGED ECONOMY THIS LEADS TO CONCLUSION THAT
VOTERS FEEL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.
WITH A REPEAT MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT THE KIRK GOVERNMENT IS
NOT LIKELY TO BE UNDULY WORRIED ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE
POLL IN THE NEAR TERM. HOWEVER, IT WILL HAVE TO TURN
AROUND THE SLIDE IN VOTER CONFIDENCE IF IT EXPECTS TO
BE THE FAVORITE IN THE NOVEMBER 1975 ELECTION
CAMPAIGN.
SELDEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFLATION, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974WELLIN02140
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740183-0020
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740763/aaaaccap.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOUR AND NATIONAL SHARE EQUAL BILLING IN PUBLIC OPINION POLL
TAGS: PINT, NZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005